

CLAIMS

1. A motor vehicle part comprising:

- an airbag safety device (21) comprising a housing (31) and an airbag contained in said housing;
- 5 · a dashboard portion (3) formed with an extraction hatch (13) adapted to open under the effect of the airbag inflating when the device is triggered;

- a frame (23) secured to the dashboard portion (3);
- and

- 10 · a flap (25) for reinforcing the hatch (13), a portion (91) of the flap being pressed against a face of the hatch (13) and being secured thereto, and in which a retaining portion (93) is secured to the frame (23) via at least one retaining hook (95) acting against the flap
- 15 (25) being ejected in the event of the device being triggered;

- in which said hook (95) is formed integrally with the flap (25) and, during triggering of the device, co-operates with a complementary shoulder (87A) formed with
- 20 the frame (23);

- the part being characterized in that the frame (23) is arranged between the housing (31) and the hatch (13) in such a manner as to form a guide channel (65) for guiding deployment of the airbag, and in that said
- 25 shoulder (87A) is defined by a window (87) formed in the frame (23), and the dashboard portion (3) presents at least one rib (101) that projects into the window (87) so as to close the window at least in part and hold the hook (95) engaged in said window (87).

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2. A part according to claim 1, characterized in that the hook (95) is T-shaped, the window (87) being of corresponding shape.

35 3. A part according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the frame (23) presents a rim (61) for fastening to the dashboard portion (3), the rim having both a face

pressed against and secured to a complementary face of the dashboard portion (3), and also an adjacent wall (82) that is substantially orthogonal thereto, and in that each window (87) comprises a respective insertion portion (87B) for inserting the hook (95) formed in said rim (61), and a retaining portion (87A) forming a shoulder for the hook (95) that is formed in said adjacent wall (82), the insertion portion (87B) being closed at least in part by the respective ribs (101) of the dashboard portion (3).

4. A part according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the flap (25) comprises a plate (91) of shape complementary to the hatch (13) and secured thereto, and in that the retaining portion (93) comprises at least one strip (94) formed integrally with said plate (91) from an edge thereof, with said hook (95) being formed beside the free end of said strip (94).

5. A part according to claim 4, characterized in that the strip (94) presents an undulation (97) such that said strip (94) can be stretched, thus enabling the hatch (13) to become completely detached and to be ejected from the dashboard portion (3) on triggering of the device (21).

6. A part according to claim 4 or claim 5, characterized in that the flap (25) has at least two such strips (94) disposed symmetrically from an edge of the plate (91), and each formed with a hook (95).

7. A method of assembling a part according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in which the shoulder (87A) is defined by a window (87) formed in the frame (23), in which method, the following steps are performed in succession:

· fixing the flap (25) to the corresponding face of the hatch (13);

- presenting the frame (23) for fastening to the dashboard portion (3), and engaging the hooks (95) in the respective windows (87); and

- fastening the frame (23) to the dashboard portion (3).

8. A method according to claim 7, characterized in that the safety device (21) is subsequently fastened relative to the frame (23).

9. A method according to claim 7 or claim 8, characterized in that the flap (25) is fastened to the hatch (13) by heat-sealing.

10. A method according to any one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the frame (23) is fastened to the dashboard portion (3) by heat-sealing.

11. A motor vehicle dashboard assembly comprising:

- a dashboard portion (201) having an inside face (207) provided with a peripheral line of weakness (217) defining a gate zone (216);
- a guide element (202) for guiding deployment of the airbag of an airbag safety device, said guide element (202) being secured to the inside face (207) of the dashboard portion (201) and comprising:

- walls (208, 209, 210, 211) forming a guide channel (212) designed to surround the airbag safety device at least in part; and

- a peripheral rim (213) for fastening the guide element to the inside face (207) of the dashboard portion (201) around the gate zone (216), and internally defining an opening zone (214) of the dashboard portion (201) for passing the airbag;

- at least one reinforcing flap (218) secured to the inside face (207) of the dashboard portion (201) in register with the gate zone (216); and

a hinge element (219) connecting the reinforcing flap (218) to the guide element (202) and/or to the dashboard portion (201);

5 the assembly being characterized in that the guide element (202) includes a hinge shield (220) isolating the hinge element (219) from the guide channel (212).

12. A dashboard assembly according to claim 11, characterized in that the walls (208, 209, 210, 211) forming the guide channel (212) and the peripheral fastening rim (213) are made together by injection-molding plastics material.

13. A dashboard assembly according to claim 11 or claim 15 12, characterized in that the wall (210) of the guide element facing the hinge element (219) forms a double wall (220, 221) defining a cavity (222) surrounding said hinge element (219), the double wall comprising a first wall forming the shield (220) and providing continuity for the guide channel (212) as far as the reinforcing flap (218), and a second wall (221) that is connected to the peripheral fastening rim (213).

14. A dashboard assembly according to any one of claims 25 11 to 13, characterized in that the hinge element (219) and the reinforcing flap (218) are made together by injection-molding plastics material.

15. A dashboard assembly according to any one of claims 30 11 to 13, characterized in that the hinge element (219) and the reinforcing flap (218) are formed together by stamping a metal sheet.

16. A dashboard assembly according to any one of claims 35 11 to 15, characterized in that the hinge element (219) presents an operative fastening zone (223) opposite from the reinforcing flap (218), said operative fastening zone

(223) being assembled to the peripheral fastening rim (213) of the guide element (202) and/or to the dashboard portion (201).

5 17. A motor vehicle part comprising:

- a dashboard portion (301) formed with an extraction hatch (316) adapted to open under the effect of inflation of the airbag of an airbag safety device, in the event of the device triggering;

10 · a frame (302) secured to the dashboard portion (301), and forming a guide channel (312) for guiding the deployment of the airbag; and

- a reinforcing flap (303) for reinforcing the hatch (316), having a reinforcing plate (318) pressed against a face of the hatch (316) and secured thereto, and having a hinge element (319) connected to the frame (302) and/or to the dashboard portion (301) via at least one operative assembly zone (323) acting against ejection of the flap (303) during triggering of the device;

20 the part being characterized in that the operative assembly zone (323) is formed integrally with the hinge element (319) and with the reinforcing plate (318), and during triggering of the device co-operates with a complementary shoulder (330, 350) formed with the frame (302) or with the dashboard portion (301).

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18. A part according to claim 17, characterized in that said shoulder (330, 350) is defined by a rib (330) formed projecting from the frame (302) or from the dashboard portion (301), and the operative assembly zone of the hinge element is provided with at least one opening (331) through which the rib (330) passes, the rib (330) presenting a free end (332) coming into contact respectively with the dashboard portion (301) or the frame (302) so as to hold the rib (330) engaged in the opening (331) of the operative assembly zone (323) at the

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interface between the frame (302) and the dashboard portion (301).

19. A part according to claim 18, characterized in that
5 the frame (302) presents a rim (313) for fastening to the dashboard portion (301), the frame having a face pressed against and secured to a complementary face of the dashboard portion (301), and in that the ribs (330) are
10 localized in setback zones of the face that is pressed against and secured to the complementary face of the dashboard portion (301), in such a manner that the free ends of the ribs lie in the plane of the face that is pressed against and secured to a complementary face of the dashboard portion (301).

15 20. A part according to claim 17, characterized in that said shoulder (330, 350) is defined by a passage (350) formed through the frame (302), and the operative assembly zone of the hinge element is provided with at
20 least one catch (351) directed away from the dashboard portion (301) and passing through the passage (350).

21. A part according to claim 20, characterized in that
25 the frame (302) presents a rim (313) for fastening to the dashboard portion (301), the rim having a face pressed against and fastened to a complementary face of the dashboard portion (301), and in that the passages (350) are localized in setback zones of the face pressed against and fastened to the complementary face of the
30 dashboard portion (301) in such a manner that the catches (351) are held in position in the passages (350) by the overlying dashboard portion (301).

22. A part according to any one of claims 17 to 21,
35 characterized in that the hinge element (319) comprises at least one strip (340) formed integrally with said plate (318) from an edge thereof, an operative assembly

zone (323) being formed beside the free edge of said strip (340).

23. A part according to claim 22, characterized in that
5 the strip (340) presents an undulation (341) such that said strip (340) can be stretched, thus enabling the hatch (316) to become complementary detached and ejected from the dashboard portion (301) during triggering of the device.

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24. A part according to claim 22 or claim 23, characterized in that the flap (303) comprises at least two such strips (340) arranged symmetrically from an edge of the plate (318), and each formed with a respective
15 operative assembly zone (323).

25. A method of assembling a part according to any one of claims 17 to 24, in which the following steps are performed in succession:

- 20 · fastening the flap (303) to the corresponding face of the hatch (316);
- presenting the frame (302) for fastening to the dashboard portion (301), and causing the operative zones to co-operate with the respective complementary
25 shoulders; and
- fastening the frame (302) to the dashboard portion (301).

26. A method according to claim 25, characterized in that
30 the flap (303) is fastened to the hatch (313) by heat-sealing.

27. A method according to claim 25 or claim 26, characterized in that the frame (302) is fastened to the
35 dashboard portion (301) by heat-sealing.